

Periodontal Root Planing

The Problem

Over many years a hard, rock-like, material called tartar has built-up on the surfaces of your teeth and especially under your gums. Tartar leads to severe gum disease. In adults, gum disease is the number one cause of premature tooth loss. Tartar can be especially damaging because it is mainly BELOW the gum line and is NOT visible. This is why so many people do not know they have a problem until it is too late. Tartar acts as a harbor for many types of bacteria, this makes you easily prone to dental infections and bad breath. Heavy tartar located below the gum line causes the supporting bone to dissolve away permanently.



This patient has significant tartar. While you can see the tartar above the gums, remember that most of the tartar is below the gums. This is especially true on the back teeth and makes tartar the leading cause of gum disease.

The Treatment

The process of removing your tartar is called periodontal root planing and scaling. This is the first step in preventing any future gum disease problems. Using local anesthetics, your gums are numbed so you do not feel the procedures. In most cases, we use IV Sedation to assure your comfort. A powered ultrasonic scaler is used to vibrate the tartar deposits off the root surfaces, then sharp hand instruments are used to smooth the root surfaces. This process leaves the teeth very clean and gives your gums the best chance to heal properly. In most cases, the gums are sore for a few days after the procedure.



After the removal of the tartar deposits the gum tissues are very red from the irritation caused by the tartar. They will begin to heal rapidly, but not be sore for more than a few days.

The Results

Your gums begin to heal almost immediately. In a matter of just a few weeks, your gums will go from looking red and sore, to pink and very healthy. You will be amazed that once the gums have healed that there is no bleeding when you brush and floss your teeth. Patients always comment on how good their mouth and gums feel. Over the next three months the gums will begin to tightly attach back to the root surfaces. In some cases, periodontal surgery still might be indicated, but this is usually limited to cases where highly advanced gum disease was present before periodontal root planing and scaling was started.



After two weeks of healing, you can see that a healthy pink color has returned to this patient's gums. If the patient continues to properly clean the teeth, and have regular dental checkups and cleanings, they will never get back into this situation again.

<input type="checkbox"/> Case Type 1 Gums: Irritated Bone Loss: None		<input type="checkbox"/> Case Type 2 Gums: Red Bone Loss: Slight		<input type="checkbox"/> Case Type 3 Gums: Inflamed Bone Loss: Moderate		<input type="checkbox"/> Case Type 4 Gums: Infected Bone Loss: Advanced	
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